

Oversized
Postcard
Affix 39¢
Stamp

Early/Absentee Ballot Request
Election Commission
601 N. 46th St.
Lincoln NE 68503

Return Address

A Voter's Guide for Women

Why Women Should Vote!

If unmarried women voted at the same rate as married women, more than six million voters would have gone to the polls in 2000. Approximately 22 million single, divorced and widowed women who were eligible didn't cast their ballots and another 16 million weren't registered to vote. Women, on their own, can transform the face of American politics.



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PO Box 81454 Lincoln NE 68501-1454

YOUR VOTE DOES COUNT!

Dear Election Commissioner:

I, _____, (*print name*)
am requesting an early/absentee ballot for the next election,
scheduled to commence on Tuesday, _____
(*give election date*).

I declare I am a registered voter and I reside at:

(*Home address or rural route*)

(*City, state, zip code*)

(*County*)

(*Precinct*)

**I hereby declare, under the penalty of election falsification,
that these statements are true, as I verily believe.**

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY - *name of registered voter*)

(*Party affiliation*)

(*Daytime phone number*)

(*Signature of registered voter*)

Please mail my early/absentee ballot to the following address:

(*Address or rural route*)

(*City, State, Zip code*)

(*Please respond to the following with Yes/No answers.*)

_____ Are you serving in the military? (*Includes spouse or dependent
of military personnel*)

_____ Are you temporarily outside of the United States or District of
Columbia, or an overseas citizen?

_____ I wish to be placed on the Election Commissioner's permanent **Early/
Absentee Ballot Request** form to receive an absentee ballot request
form.

Your Vote Does Count!

WHAT IS AN EARLY/ABSENTEE BALLOT? Voters can use the Election Commission's official Early/Absentee Ballot to cast their vote when they can't travel to their polling booth in their precinct.

WHAT IS AN AGENT? For election purposes, an "agent" is a volunteer who delivers the ballot to or from the Election Commission office on behalf of the voter. An agent can only act on behalf of two voters in one election. A Candidate or a member of a candidate's campaign committee can only be an agent for his or her own family member. The penalty for election falsification is imprisonment for up to five (5) years or a fine not to exceed ten thousand (\$10,000) or both.

WHEN ARE ELECTIONS HELD? In even-numbered years, Statewide Primary Elections are held the second Tuesday in May and the Statewide General Election is held the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November. In odd-numbered years, Lincoln City General Elections are held the first Tuesday in May with the Primary Elections held four weeks prior to the General Election.

WHEN IS THE LAST DAY I CAN REGISTER? Mail-in registration must be postmarked on or before the third Friday before an election. Register in person at the Election Office or outside registration sites up to 10 days before an election.

WHEN IS THE LAST DAY TO MAIL BACK MY BALLOT? Early/Absentee Ballots can not be accepted after the following dates & times: Mail by 4 p.m. Wednesday before the election or In person by 5 p.m. on Monday before the election, or by agent at 7 p.m. on the Election Day itself.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS? In a partisan primary election, members of each party nominate candidates for the general election. Nebraska has five political parties recognized under state law: Republican Party, Democratic Party, the Libertarian Party, the Nebraska Party and the Green Party. If you register nonpartisan (independent) you will only be able to vote for ballot issues and nonpartisan candidates in the primary election.

EARLY/ABSENTEE BALLOT VOTING QUESTIONS? Call Marilyn Olsen, Lancaster County Early Voting Coordinator at (402) 441-7314.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Requesting an Early/Absentee ballot eliminates your right to vote at your assigned polling place.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Election Commission, 601 N. 46th St., Lincoln NE 68503. Phone (402) 441-7311. Visit the Web site at www.lincoln.ne.gov or e-mail David Shively at dshively@lincoln.ne.gov.



Why Women Should Vote ...

Whether you're a...

- ✓ Single mom trying to improve your family's future
- ✓ Retired school teacher trying to make ends meet with high-cost prescriptions
- ✓ Woman responsible for a full-time job and caring for your aging mother
- ✓ Newly graduated college student seeking your first job

You need to vote

because there are vital issues that impact you, your mother and your children.

You need to vote

because you have the power

- the power of women.

Together

we can make a difference

by each of us

casting her individual vote.

How many women and children do you know who have been raped or sexually assaulted? Let's talk about rape and sexual assault...

- ✓ Rape is violence against women and children, and about power and control.
- ✓ Every 2½ minutes somewhere in America, someone is sexually assaulted. (Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network)
- ✓ The US Justice Department reports that 28% of those rapes or attempted rapes are reported to law enforcement officials. (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2000)
- ✓ 84% of rape victims know their attacker in some way. This is called "acquaintance rape". (National Control for Victims of Crime)
- ✓ 44% of rape victims are under 18 and 80% are under the age of 30. (Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network)
- ✓ In 2 out of 3 child sexual assaults, the assailants are immediate family relatives or family friends. (Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network)
- ☐ Does your candidate understand the importance of educating people regarding how to protect themselves?
- ☐ How will your candidate strengthen and enforce laws on rape and sexual assault?

NOTES:

Are you a working woman? Let's talk about Economic Empowerment...

- ✓ Nebraska ranks 44th in the nation for the rate of cents on the dollar women receive in the same jobs as men. (IWPR- Status of Women in Nebraska, 2004 highlights report)
- ✓ Young women have not traditionally been encouraged to take math and science courses in the same numbers as young men. Only 31.5% of women are currently studying for degrees that will prepare them for work in science, engineering or information technology. (National Science Foundation)
- ✓ Nebraska ranks 49th in the country for the number of women in managerial and professional occupations. (IWPR- Status of Women in Nebraska, 2004 highlights report)
- ☐ What solutions does your candidate have for narrowing the economic gender gap?
- ☐ What strategies does your candidate offer to encourage and prepare women to enter non-traditional occupations and professions?
- ☐ Does your candidate support the provisions of Title IX?

NOTES:

How much was your last paycheck? Let's talk about Employment and Wage ...

- ✓ Nationally, in 2004, women earned 76.2 cents to every dollar a man earned; for women of color, that gap is even larger. African American women earn 63 cents to every dollar. (Institute for Women's Policy Research, 2004)
- ✓ The gender wage ratio, which had remained virtually constant from 1955 through the 1970's, began to increase in the 1980's. For full-time year-round workers, the ratio of women's median annual earnings to men's rose from 60.7 cents in 1960, reaching 71.6 in 1990. Over the 1990's, the wage ratio grew modestly. An all time high of 76.6 cents was reached in 2002, but the ratio fell back in 2003, to 75.5 cents. (Institute for Women's Policy Research, 2004)
- ☐ Does your candidate support laws to increase a minimum wage to end the cycle of poverty and help women achieve self sufficiency?
- ☐ How does your candidate support laws banning discrimination in pay for jobs of equal skill, effort and responsibility?
- ☐ How supportive is your candidate in advocating and financially supporting early care and education/childcare?

Do your youth have access to guns? Let's talk about Gun Violence...

- ✓ Firearms are the second leading cause of death (after motor vehicle accidents) for young people under 19 in the United States. (Leading Causes of Death reports, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control)
- ✓ There are three times the number of firearm dealers as McDonald's franchises in America. In Nebraska, there are 1,020 licensed firearm dealers and pawnbrokers. (ATF Report, 2001)
- ☐ What are your candidates' view on gun control?

No health care insurance? You're not alone. Let's talk about Health Care costs...

- ✓ There are 16.7 million women nationwide who can't afford to be sick. Of the 522,750 females living in Nebraska, about 77,350 women had NO health care coverage during 2004. (Kaiser Family Foundation State Health facts)
- ✓ 34.2% of low income women in Nebraska, ages 18 to 64, are uninsured. (Kaiser Family Foundation Women's Health Policy Facts, March 2006)
- ✓ In Nebraska, 14.9% of women are uninsured. (Kaiser Commission on Medicaid, 2005)
- ☐ How does your candidate support legislation that provides insurance to women and children living in poverty?
- ☐ Does your candidate support legislation that provides insurance to women and children living in poverty?

Are you prepared to care for your aging parents? Let's talk about Caretaking...

- ✓ 80% of long-term care for older adults in the United States is provided by families. Caregivers often face extreme stress and financial burdens, especially those who are called the sandwich generation; middle-aged parents who care for their children and their own aging parents.
- ✓ In 2003, 163,857 Nebraskans provided 176 million hours of unpaid caregiving services with an annual market value of \$1,546,000.
- ☐ Does your candidate endorse policies that support families who provide care help (such as Family Medical Leave Act [FMLA], respite care, tax breaks, flex time) for family members?

you need to vote! you need to vote! you need to vote!

you need to vote!

- you need to vote!***

you need to vote!

- you need to vote!***

you need to vote! you need to vote! you need to vote!

you need to vote!

- you need to vote!*

you need to vote!